

Back Cover

Armourdale is a musical based on tales of events that occurred in the Armourdale district of Kansas City, Kansas, located on the Kansas River, also called the "Kaw." These events take place from 1936 through 1951, when the worst flood in the city's history devastated the area. The story centers around two families living across the street from each other. Luigi and Assunta Tortorilla, Italian immigrants, their daughter Norma, and seven other children. Bill and Mary (O'Donnell) Sanders, their son, "OD", and their grandson Tommy.

THE KONTROVERSY

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www.thekontrovery.com Ragged But Right Records RBR304 P.O. Box 112 Basehor, KS 66007



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Front Cover

Armourdale

THE KONTROVERSY

1. Armourdale

The cast welcomes the audience to the show with this satirical celebration of their community

Armourdale!
It's on the river Kaw
The home of Ma and Pa
Armourdale!
Come visit and you'll see
That river hospitality
Armourdale is home to me.

We're not glamorous
Like in Hollywood
But we are wondrous
In fact we are quite good
We don't have the charm of a gay Par-ee
You will be alarmed by some of what you see.

We don't have a beach
Like in Trinidad
But the river's within reach
In fact it's not half bad
We don't have the pubs you'll find in Dublin
But there are many places to get drunk in.

There's not the open space that's in Texas
And blandness you will notice it in excess
If we make you shiver
Then that's just that
And don't let anybody call us river rat.

The Colorado mountains
Are unknown to us
And if you give us crap
You can expect a fuss
Fifth Avenue is someplace
We have never seen
Armourdale's the farthest
We have ever been.

2. We're Not A Family

Luigi dies unexpectedly, leaving his immigrant wife and eight children.

Dear Papa don't you know
We're not a family without you
And Papa what will we do
Now that we have to live without you
Wherever you are now, please don't forget us
We will never forget you
We're not a family without you

We know that you're gone and
You won't be around
To be happy when we're happy
And pick us up when we are down
They say you are in a better place
But can't they see we're not a family
Without you.

Dear family don't you know
Papa won't be here
To share our meals

I'm gettin' away from filth and grime
Safe from city crime
Just sittin' in a field of new mowed hay
The city's just one big sewer
Where manners are quite a bit fewer
In the country everyday's a sunny day.

A little shack on a dirt road
The fields are all plowed and sewed
There's nowhere else on earth I'd rather be
I'm tired of workin' all day
Shuckin' corn and bailin' hay
But that will be just home sweet home to me.

All songs written by Kevin Sanders except
Down by the Tracks written by Kevin Sanders
and Pat Ireland

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Thanks to Debby Sanders, Lori Sanders,
Christy Sanders, Toby Tortorilla, Rob Rebeck
at Chapman Recording & Mastering, Lenexa,
KS, and JRobert at Mangrove Music Studios,
Marco Island, FL.

Produced by Kevin Sanders

Photos pages 2, 4, 5, 10, and 11
courtesy Toby Tortorilla

Kevin Sanders:

Guitars, bass, piano, trumpet, banjo-ukulele,
slide guitar track 4, harmonica, back-up
vocals, lead vocals tracks 4, 5, 6, 9, 11, 13

Tim Sanders:

Drums, percussion, back-up vocals

Barry Johnson:

Lead guitar tracks 5, 10, 14
12 string guitar and 12 string slide guitar
track 3.

Rob Rebeck:

Lead vocals tracks 1, 2, 8, 12, 14, 15

Zeb Sanders:

Lead vocals tracks 3, 10, back-up vocals

Bobbi Lindsay:

Lead vocals tracks 7, 11, back-up vocals

E.T Thomas:

Tenor sax, trombone

Pat Ireland:

Violins, viola

Horn, string, and vocal arrangements by
Kevin Sanders

We'll have our memories still
But they won't pay the bills
Don't know where we will live
But something's gotta give
Maybe we can rebuild
The garden has been killed
We'll stay with relatives
That's how we'll live.

We'll have to find a home
Till then we'll have to roam
Don't care if it's a shack
Someday we'll all be back
We have lost everything
We don't have much to bring
We have our family
As it should be.

Let's say goodbye
To Armourdale
We have to leave it now
Let's hit the trail
Let's say a prayer
For Armourdale
It was once our home
But we had to bail.

14. Way Out in the Country

Tommy and Norma's home has been destroyed by the flood and now they must find a new place to live. They dream of living in the country, perhaps Bonner Springs, Kansas, close to Tommy's maternal grandparents. They settle for a small, pre-fab house in another section of Kansas City, Kansas, called Argentine.

I'm gonna move
Way out in the country
I'm gonna go where nobody can find me
I'm gonna move
Way out in the country
Country living's just all right by me.

Well I'm just a city slicker
Who keeps on getting sicker
Of city smells and city ways of livin'
So I'm movin' out of town
Plant my feet on solid ground
Where folks are a little more kind
And a lot more givin'.

I'm gonna move
Way out in the country
I'm gonna go where the air is fresh and clean
I'm gonna move
Way out in the country
Country living's just all right by me.

And we will never be the same
Since he no longer here remains
Dear family don't you know
That at Christmas he won't be here
And our future's looking grim
Now that we have to live without him.

You have gone so far away
You made us happy throughout the day
It's just not right that you were taken
Suddenly this way.

We'll meet again we know it's true
And there'll be nothing anyone could do
That would keep us apart
We're not a family without you.

3. Set the Outhouse on Fire

In an effort to keep warm on a cold winter's night, one of the kids burns newspapers in the outhouse, which was the common practice. He inadvertently catches the outhouse on fire.

Johnny set the outhouse on fire
Although it maybe wasn't his desire
Still he set the outhouse on fire
Johnny set the outhouse on fire

Go get Mama now!
She probably won't believe

She'll want to know just how
And then she'll be real peeved
He was trying to keep warm
But this is overkill
He'll wish he wasn't born
He didn't mean to still.

Now what will we do
Without a place to go
I guess we will rebuild
And then I'll let you know
He wanted to keep warm
But now he's way too hot
The flames began to swarm
Then out of there he got.

He got out real fast
Then we all ran around
He knew it wouldn't last
It burned right to the ground.
Run run run run
Go get Mama quick
We have to put it out
Before it makes her sick.

It's too bad Papa's gone
He'd know just what to do
Perhaps he'd use his brawn
His choices would be few

But Papa isn't here
He'd know just what to do
He'd douse the fire with beer
Before the flames renew.

4. Down by the Tracks

The Tortorilla family is struggling to survive the depression without their father's income. They need coal, so Assunta sends her two youngest children, Norma and Harold, to the railroad tracks to pick up some coal that has fallen off the railroad cars.

Well I'm sittin' in front of the fireplace
In the early morn'
Although I'm by the fireplace
It's not very warm.

I gotta go down by the tracks
I'm gonna get my lump of coal
And then I'll head back home
Down by the tracks.

Work is hard it can break your back
Life is rough when you live
Down by the tracks
We gotta have coal to keep warm
So all the poor folks swarm
Down by the tracks

Mama's at the stove in the kitchen
Stirrin' a pot
Tryin' to cook on a stove that's not very hot.

I'm gonna go down by the tracks
We need heat so we can cook
And so some coal we took
From by the tracks.

We got no money you see
But all the coal is free
Down by the tracks

It's cold in our home you know
So we gotta get some coal
Down by the tracks.
The engineer knows we're poor
And so some coal he'll throw
Down by the tracks

5. Munch Your Troubles Away

Bill Sanders operates a small grocery store out of the living room of his house. The neighborhood kids frequently come in and try to steal candy and other snacks.

When you come in to our house
You know exactly where you are
Brother is eating some peanuts
Sister a candy bar

Munch munch munch munch
Munch your troubles away

The beer tastes good
With the pretzels so thin
We'll finish off the candy

I want to write a good song for real.

12. The Flood is Coming

Heavy rains in July 1951 cause the Kansas River to rise. The people of Armourdale are ordered to evacuate as the levee is expected to break. Tommy is at work and must hurry home to get his family out.

The flood is coming, the flood is coming
Gotta get away before it is too late.
The flood is coming the flood is coming
Gotta get right out while people run about.

It's been raining for a month
That's what the people say
The water's rising really fast
We gotta get away.

The water's rising really fast
The levee's gonna break
Gather only what you need
For your family's sake.

This will be the biggest flood
We've seen since 1903
I don't know where we will go
We'll have to wait and see.

Where do you think you're going man?

You are much too late.
I've got to get my family out
So they won't meet their fate.

Well hurry up and be right back
Promise and I'll let you in
You can bet that I will be right back
Go ahead and tell your men.

13. Goodbye to Armourdale

The flood has devastated the Armourdale district. The people must now find someplace else to live.

Let's say goodbye
To Armourdale
We have to leave it now
Let's hit the trail
Let's shed a tear
For Armourdale
It was once our home but we had to bail.

The flood has come and gone
But our lives will still go on
We now have to leave
But we'll get through our grief
We'll miss the sights and sounds
To a new home we're bound
A change is round the bend
Don't know the end.

Great things are gonna happen
Great things are gonna happen for me
No more of this stress
Only happiness
Great things are gonna happen for me.

Great things are gonna happen for me in
my work
I'll find a job, someplace where
The boss ain't such a jerk
I'll stay till I retire from labor I'll be free
Great things are gonna happen to me.

Great things are gonna happen
My music will be right
I'll find a place for my band to play
Each and every night
Then one day when my life is over
I'll meet the one who's my friend and
brother
Great things are gonna happen for me.

11. A Good Song/I'm Devoted to You

Back home in Armourdale, Tommy and Norma get married.

I want to write a good song
And dedicate it to you
And it would be a happy song
So you won't feel blue
I'll sing it for you any day
The whole day through
I want to write a good song for you.

I want to make you happy
And put a smile on your face
And a twinkle in your eye
A frown to replace
I want to paint a classic
To show my love will last
You'll have a happy future and past.

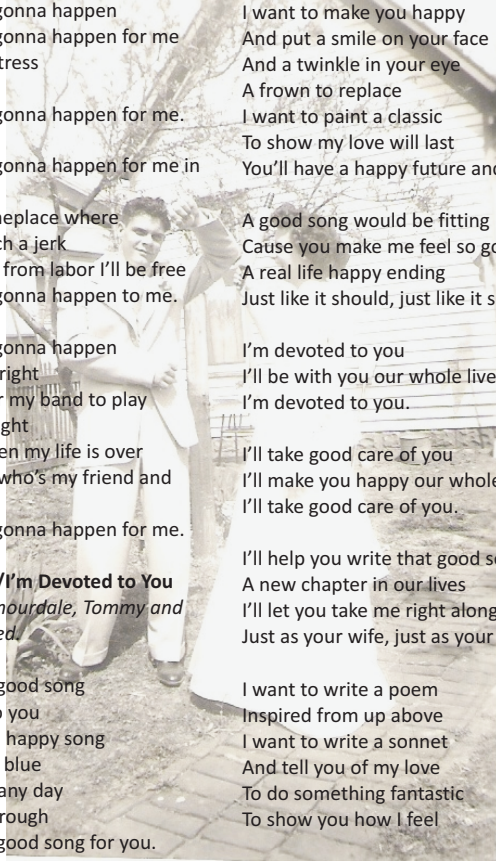
A good song would be fitting
Cause you make me feel so good
A real life happy ending
Just like it should, just like it should.

I'm devoted to you
I'll be with you our whole lives through
I'm devoted to you.

I'll take good care of you
I'll make you happy our whole lives through
I'll take good care of you.

I'll help you write that good song
A new chapter in our lives
I'll let you take me right along
Just as your wife, just as your wife.

I want to write a poem
Inspired from up above
I want to write a sonnet
And tell you of my love
To do something fantastic
To show you how I feel



Then we'll eat again

We'll get fat, we don't care
If there's food, we'll be there.

We'll have a snack after dinner
We'll have a snack after the snack
We'll have ice-cream for bedtime
The refrigerator we'll attack.

6. I Think About You All the Time
As Assunta's son Angelo was growing up, he was always getting into trouble. Assunta worried that he didn't even bother to pray everyday. Angelo, now in the army, assures his mother in a letter that he is saying his prayers.

I talk to you everyday
You guide me along the way
Your love for me is divine
And I, I think about you all the time.

When I'm in need you always come through
You help me know what to do
You're always there for me on a dime
And I, I think about you all the time.

You give me friends to help me get through
Until the day I come home to you
You're helping me stay right in line
And I, I think about you all the time.

When I think about you, I just sigh
Your love for me is so strong
It makes me wonder why.

I know I'm not always good
Don't do the things that I should
But I'll say this and it's not a line
That I, I think about you all the time.

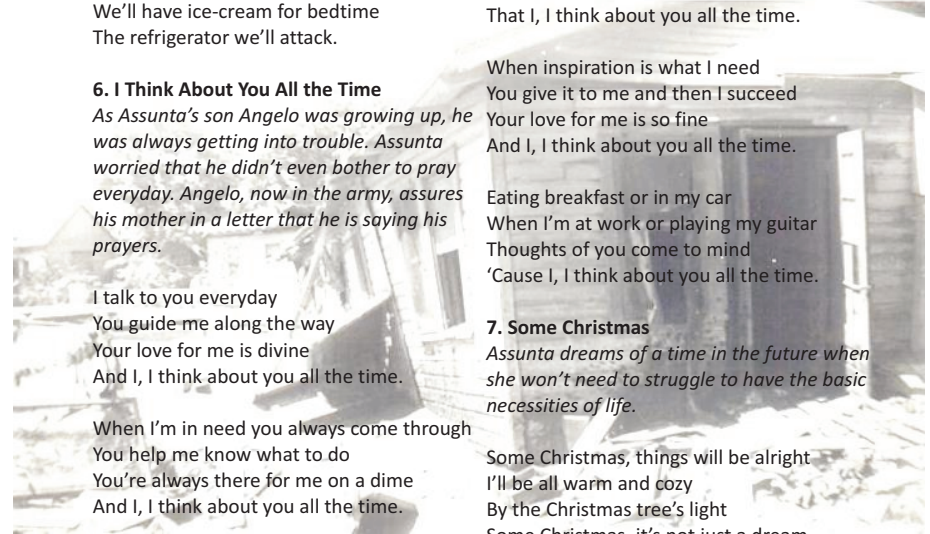
When inspiration is what I need
You give it to me and then I succeed
Your love for me is so fine
And I, I think about you all the time.

Eating breakfast or in my car
When I'm at work or playing my guitar
Thoughts of you come to mind
'Cause I, I think about you all the time.

7. Some Christmas
Assunta dreams of a time in the future when she won't need to struggle to have the basic necessities of life.

Some Christmas, things will be alright
I'll be all warm and cozy
By the Christmas tree's light
Some Christmas, it's not just a dream
There'll be a future Christmas
When I'll have all that I need.

I'm not sad, in fact I'm glad



'Cause I know it will come true
It won't be luck, I'll have some bucks
Cause I'm doin', all I can do.

Some Christmas, things won't be so bad
I'll look back on these hard times
And the struggle I had
Some Christmas, it's not just a dream
There'll be a future Christmas
When I'll have all that I need.

There'll be snow, the lights will glow
Relaxing by a fire
I won't be cold, I may be old
I'll have the basics, no other desires.

I'm trying to cope, but I'm full of hope
'Cause I'm giving it all I got
I'll have health, perhaps some wealth
It won't be much, but it will be a lot.

Some Christmas, it'll be some Christmas
Then some Christmas, it will be.

8. Little Did She Know

Assunta's son Angelo has been killed in the war.

Little did she know that in a field far away
Her son lifelessly lies.
Little did she know that her soldier boy
Is the one who just died.

While she was doing her chores
Sweeping the floors
Her son was shot through the heart
Didn't act very smart.

Little did she know that while other kids play
Her son had seen his last day.
Little did she know
While she had dreams for him too
Those dreams will never come true.

They'll send his dog tags
They'll give her a flag
She feels all alone
He is not coming home.

While she was living her life
Struggling just to survive
The son that she bore
Was not alive anymore.

She's waiting for him to come back
To their home that is just a small shack
She feels overwhelmed by the grief
And wonders if there's no relief.

Little does she know
That the sun will still shine
As others will live their lives.
Little does she know
That her life will go on
She'll be the one who survives.

He was in a trench
Saw his friend had been shot
Climbed out to get his revenge
Ignoring what he was taught.

9. In the Indies

Tommy, Bill and Mary's grandson, has joined the Navy. The men have received their orders to go to Panama. One of the men would rather go to the West Indies.

In the Indies, the West Indies
The Caribbean Isles, I'll do nothing but smile
In the Indies, the West Indies
Sippin' rum on the beach
With my cares out of reach.

In the Indies, the West Indies
That's the place I will go
When I can't take no mo'
In the Indies, the West Indies
Listening to the steel drum
All I can do is hum.

We're sailing on to Panama
But that's not the place I want to see
No I don't want that port of call
I want to see Jamaica, Bahamas,
Antigua, the Antilles.

In the Indies, the West Indies
Take a load off my feet

Get some Mangos to eat
In the Indies, the West Indies
That's the best place to go
To get away from the cold.

Around the world we have sailed
But there's one place we haven't seen
To go there, we have failed
We haven't seen Tobago, Aruba,
Barbados, the Antilles.

In the Indies, the West Indies
Sit around and kick back
Lose the stress and relax
In the Indies, the West Indies
We can swim in the ocean
If we get such a notion.

In the Indies, the West Indies
That's the place where I want to be

10. Great Things Are Gonna Happen

Tommy tells his Navy buddies that he is taking leave to go home to marry Norma. One of his buddies tells him how he has his life all planned out for when he gets out of the Navy.

Great things are gonna happen to me in my life
I'll meet a girl, fall in love
And then I'll have a wife.
No more lookin' back the future's all I can see
Great things are gonna happen for me.